

REVEAL DIGITAL

The Seed

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FREE SEED

volume 9 number 10



Walt Disney Studios/Direct From Cuba

This is a very abbreviated Good Numbers/Free City Directory listing. The complete list takes up more than two full pages.

For information on health care, lawyers, political groups, etc etc etc, call one of the REFERRAL listings down below. Please don't call us — we're just not set up to handle referral calls.

RAPE CRISIS LINE:

Northside: 728-1920, 6pm to mid, Wed to Sat
Southside: 667-1929, 6pm to mid, Thurs to Sun

SUICIDE PREVENTION — 492-4545

DRUG ANALYSIS

how to get analyzed — 922-4398
recorded summary of recent analysis — 922-8061

CITY HOTLINES:

Metrohelp — 929-5150 — 24 hour referral service
Alternatives — 973-5404, 6pm to mid Sun thru Thurs, 6pm to 3am Fri & Sat
Youth Aid Telephone Service — 775-2211, 6pm to mid daily
Inner Tube — 777-0545, 777-0546, 7pm to mid
Youth Systems — 944-9218; answering service
Pflash Tyre Co. — 549-8388, 24-hours daily
ADDISON Community Switchboard — 543-4050
9 to 6 Mon thru Fri, 24-hour referrals
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS; Turning Point — 394-0404
daily 5pm to midnight
AURORA Youth Aid Program — 859-3333, 9am to mid
Mon to Thurs, 6pm to 1am Sat; 6pm to mid Sun
BERWYN; Youth In Crisis — 797-3182, 24-hour referral
DEERFIELD; North Shore Help Line — 945-8822
8pm to 1am Mon thru Thurs; 4pm to 7am Fri to Sun
DE KALB; Gordon Center Crisis Line — 758-6655 24- hours
DE KALB; Mother Sunshine — 758-4438, 24-hours Mon-Fri
DOWNERS GROVE; Rapline — 852-0110, 8pm to mid,
Wed, Fri & Sat
ELGIN; The Line — 697-0550, 8pm to mid everyday
GLENNVIEW; Insight — 729-2777, 8pm to mid Sun thru Thurs,
8pm to 1am Fri & Sat
JOLIET; Lemonade — 727-4615, 7pm to 11pm Sun thru
Thurs, 7pm to 2am Fri & Sat
LA GRANGE; Community Extension (West Suburban Y)
352-7600 ext 233. 10 to 6 mon to Fri, 6-10 Tu&Fri
LOMBARD; Maytalk — 629-8255, 8 to mid everyday
MAYWOOD; Open Door — 345-3920, 11am to 3am Fri thru
Sat, 9am to 5pm Sun thru Thurs
MT. PROSPECT; Pumphouse — 259-7184, 5pm to 1am
weekdays, 24-hours weekends
NILES; Youth Aid Telephone Service — 647-8910, 755-2211
6pm to midnight everyday
OAK LAWN; H.O.W. (Southwest Y) — 499-2990, 8:15am to
5:30pm weekdays, 24-hour referral
OAK PARK; Hotline — 848-2555, 6pm to 6am everyday
PALATINE; Bridge — 359-7490, 2pm to 10pm weekdays,
6pm to 10pm Sat & Sun, 24 hour referral
PARK FOREST; Aunt Martha's — 747-2701, 747-2702, 7pm
to 11pm Sun thru Thurs, 7pm to 1am Fri and Sat
PARK FOREST; South Suburban Hotline — 481-1360, 8pm
to mid Sun thru Fri, 8pm to 2am Sat
ROMEOVILLE; Rap Company — 838-6502, 6pm to 1am
everyday
VILLA PARK; DuPage County Outreach Center — 834-8900,
9am to 7:30pm Mon to Thurs; 9am to 6pm Friday
24 hour referral
WHEELING; Omni-House — 541-HELP, 6pm to 11pm
weekdays, 5pm to 1am Fri and Sat
WHEELING; Youth Services Bureau — 541-0190, 6pm to
11pm Mon to Thurs, 5pm to 1am Fri, Sat & Sun

GOOD NUMBERS

HELP IMPEACH NIXON Petitions, Buttons, Bumper Stickers SEND \$2.00 FOR KIT

Enclosed find \$2.00 for my button, bumper sticker and petition.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO IMPEACH NIXON
18523 Gault Street / Reseda, California 91335

an open letter to the ecology movement

murray bookchin

There are disquieting signs that the ecology movement, faced with the "energy crisis" of the mid-seventies, may well strike the self-righteous, hortatory posture that it so arrogantly assumed at the beginning of the Seventies. Once again I begin to hear the message that "we" are an "irresponsible" and "wasteful" people — this time with respect to our "insatiable consumption of energy," just as three years ago "we" were denounced as "irresponsible" for our "soaring" birth rate. Quite a few ecologists seem to have wedded their thinking to a latter-day version of original sin: it is always some abstract "we" who repeatedly commit the archetypal violation of the natural world, whether in the privacy of our bedrooms or behind the wheels of our motor vehicles.

This ecumenical approach to humanity's sins has a grotesquely reactionary core. It places impoverished blacks in the same league with affluent whites, women in the same league with men, autoworkers in the same league with corporate executives. If I found it distasteful, to say the least, when, in *Population Bomb*, Paul Ehrlich's bony finger swept the social horizon and condemned ghetto and exurb alike for reproducing to excess, I find it no less distasteful to learn that some poor exploited worker who must drive to a noisy assembly line is judgementally placed on a par with his fat-cat employer who is chauffeured to his comfortable office suite. Nor do I feel very comfortable to learn that the small independent trucker, who is virtually being put out of business, is to be equated with Gulf Corporation directors, who are reaping profit increases of over 90 percent in a single quarter — both as a result of the same "energy shortage." Indeed, what has turned out to be a very real shortage for the great majority of "wasteful Americans" is turning into an indecent superfluity of windfall profits for a rapacious corporate elite. Although I have been actively involved in ecological and environmental problems since the early Fifties, I find myself blushing at colleagues whose social outlook toward these indecencies is as blighted as the environment they are trying to rescue.

It is no understatement, in my view, to say that the promising ecology movement that followed "earth day" in the early Seventies was nearly destroyed by organizations like Zero Population Growth which succeeded in defusing a penetrating social analysis of environmental decay with a cheap numbers game based on birth/death ratios. Ehrlich's *Population Bomb*, with its sickening commitment to the military "triage system" (walking wounded, mortally wounded, rescuable), its fatuous hyperbole, and its studied indifference to the social factors that enter into the very making of a birth rate (e.g., the position of women and children in a society, the economic status of various classes, the morale of a community and its attitude toward nature) — all of this virtually bombed the ecology movement itself into extinction. That blacks, workers, poor people generally, and socially critical individuals viewed this work with repugnance and, by extension, sullenly denounced the ecology movement as a cabal of privileged elitist whites is quite understandable. Hopefully, the years since Ehrlich has faded from the scene have been a period of thoughtful re-evaluation by ecologists on the social factors that are producing the environmental breakdown of our era. By these social factors, I refer to an irrational profit-oriented economy based on production for the sake of production, a market nexus that fragments true community into an atomized competitive jungle of predatory "buyers" and "sellers," indeed, a "society" whose law of life is "grow or die," one which views nature as little more than an agglomeration of inanimate objects or "natural resources" to be ruthlessly exploited and devoured.

That fossil fuels are finite and not inexhaustible; that nuclear fuels are a terrifying hazard to the entire biosphere the use of which should be permanently banned, not merely subject to a moratorium, are issues beyond dispute in my mind. But the current "energy shortage" has been so shamelessly contrived by the "energy industry" to increase its profits, to rape the Arctic regions, to promote offshore drilling operations, to construct deep-water ports and nuclear reactors, and in no small measure to devour independent producers and retailers, that the real energy crisis at this time lies not in the realm of consumption but in the realm of production. Far more serious than the "environmental crisis" imputed to the "wastefulness" of an abstract "American" is the far-reaching environmental damage that the oil corporations are engineering by a calculated restriction of refinery capacity. For the ecology movement to be ensnared by this maneuver would be disastrous. By echoing the message of "scarcity" in terms that leave unquestioned the very society and productive apparatus that has engineered a scarcity in consumption all the more to acquire a free hand in expanding hazardous areas of production is to enter into complicity with the real sources of the environmental crisis — the industrial and financial bandits who run this country.

The ecology movement is faced with a very serious test of its social insight and probity — a test that will either make it a serious force for basic social change or reduce it to an apologetic adjunct of the status quo. The present society

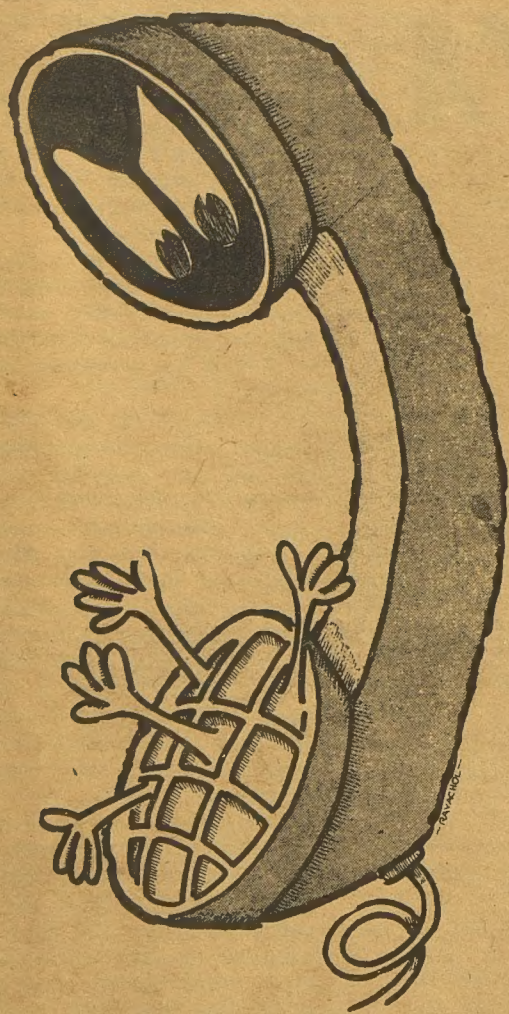
is not merely non-ecological but actively anti-ecological. A system whose guiding maxim is "grow or die" would devour the planet whether it produced pollution or not — merely by rendering the organic inorganic, by replacing the complex by the simple and diversity by homogeneity. That our needs have expanded beyond any rational dimensions should be explained not by creating any spurious image of the "wasteful American" in the realm of consumption, but by coming to grips with a cannibalistic society in the realm of production that deploys its media to distort needs and creates a logistical situation in the cities and countryside that even makes irrational needs seem "rational." Thus it ill becomes the ecology movement to lecture a worker on the need to abandon his car for a bicycle when it is not prepared to suggest how his community can be so organized that he requires neither a car nor a bicycle to get to work. Perhaps even more basically, it ill becomes the ecology movement to lecture him on conserving electric power for his air-conditioner, refrigerator, or television set when these pitiful amenities are probably the only compensation he has for the arduous toil to which he has been sentenced by an exploitative economy whose sole goal is profit and plunder. If the ecology movement can do little more than echo the oil corporations and the Nixon administration on the redeeming virtues of scarcity, denial, and renunciation, it would do well to fold up and disappear. Our movement lost much of its credibility with Ehrlich's numbers game three years ago. I doubt if it will survive the paeans to scarcity, denial, and renunciation that are emanating from ecological disciples of a "labor-intensive" society.

The ecology movement must begin to speak up for an ecological society. It must bring into question not technology as such but a rapacious centralized corporate or state technology that is designed to exploit people and nature. It must bring into question not consumption as such but a mindless system of "consumption" based on exchange, profit, and media-created "tastes" that defile the human spirit. The ecology movement must show that the alternatives are not between energy shortages and scarcity but an irrational system of production and a society based on ecological principles that can amply meet rational human needs with a minimum of onerous toil. We can have all the energy we need if we use the sun and wind rather than fossil fuels and nuclear fuels. And we can use the sun and wind with reasonable effectiveness if we decentralize our cities and create ecocommunities artistically tailored to the ecosystems in which they are located. To make these sweeping changes implies an entirely new social order in which the planet is shared communally rather than parcelled out privately to satisfy competitive, profit-oriented interests.

It is rather seductive to join the corporate chorus that currently preaches "scarcity" — and quietly reaps its harvests of extravagant profits. It is easy and cheap to turn off one's lights — and perhaps the very lights that reveal grotesque conspiracies to bilk the public and subvert its meagre environmental gains. Frankly, the "energy crisis" is *their* damned crisis — not ours. True, we want to conserve our finite resources and rescale our needs along rational lines, but we can hardly expect to achieve these laudable ends without making society as a whole into a rational one. The present "energy crisis" need not have existed if we replaced our fossil and nuclear fuel by ecological sources of energy. Very well — let us point out the alternatives to the fuels they are trying to promote and the kind of society they are trying to perpetuate.

Already the ecology movement is wearing a defensive mien for demanding restrictions on hazardous fuels and for trying to prevent the plundering of our last natural areas. By taking the prevailing irrational productive apparatus for granted, by accepting the corporate system and market economy as given, and by placing its major critical emphasis on public consumption, the movement has fatuously left itself open to the charge that sound ecological practices involve the "loss of jobs" in the productive realm and harsh austerity in the consumptive realm. Unless the ecology movement aggressively attempts to deal with the inherent irrationality of a productive system based on the maxim "grow or die," unless it demands a society that replaces competition by mutualism and private ownership of resources by communal management, and finally, unless it makes human needs rather than profit the focus of economic activity, the movement will be reduced to the household pet of the corporate system — a creature to be stroked or kicked at the whim of the corporate elite. If the ecology movement lends itself to this position — worse, if it joins the well-financed and shrewdly engineered "panic" mentality that corporate interests are deploying to accumulate an indecent amount of profit and power — the movement will have earned the shabby oblivion into which it was nearly cast a few years ago.

(First appeared [or at least we first saw it there] in *Liberation Magazine* [339 Lafayette St, NY, NY 10012, subs \$10 a year] Murray Bookchin is the author of "Post Scarcity Anarchism," "Listen Marxist" and many other books — most of which you can find at Solidarity Books, 713 W. Armitage.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
N X Z A G S Q F U J

A full credit card number consists of a seven digit phone number, a three digit city code called an RAO (Regional Accounting Office), and the secret letter. For instance, to charge a call to the phone number 727-2581 in Chicago, the credit card number would be 727-2581-097 G. The RAO for the city of Chicago is 097, and the letter for the fifth digit of the phone number is G. Some other RAO's can be found at the end of this article.

Even worse, these depraved nihilists don't just make up phone numbers to charge to — they prefer to charge their calls to some of our largest corporations and responsible government agencies! After all, goes the corrupt reasoning, information anywhere in the country is still a free call.

Fortunately, the Bell System is far from defenseless in the face of these depredations. There is a computer record of every long distance call made, so if the call originates from a private line, the company knows who to really charge.

Unfortunately, these clever social deviants make their calls from pay phones, and just say, "My credit card number is xxx-xxxx-yyy-A." The operator can ask what the area code of the credit card number is, but that doesn't help much, since these dishonest dialers usually have it at the tip of their tongues. The operator can also check with a computer to see if it's a real credit card number, but this is rare. Even if the operator refuses to put the call through, the cheat just hangs up and tries again from another phone.

The Phone Company's Security Division may call the recipients of fraudulently charged calls, but they all seem to be made to either busy offices which get too many calls a day to know who made a particular call, or to friends as corrupt as the callers, who "can't remember" or "don't even know anybody in that city," or something.

The hardworking guardians of the Bell System's revenues have even been accused of such underhanded or illegal tactics as tapping or staking out particular

phones suspected of being favorites of toll cheats.

Company efforts against more technologic foes are also not too successful. The accounting computers are now programmed to watch out for suspicious quantities or lengths of 800 or 555-1212 calls, and 2600 Hz detectors are being placed on suspicious lines, but blue boxes still get around. As for red boxes, a light is supposed to tell the operator if the coins being collected or returned are really there. Even though the operators are so used to broken equipment that the light usually does no good, red boxers avoid needing the operator to collect or return the coins that aren't really there.

And these criminals all seem to know two watchwords:

USE COMMON SENSE
TREAT EVERY PHONE CONVERSATION AS
THOUGH THE PHONE WAS TAPPED.

area code	RAO(s)	state/city	314	143, 177	St Louis Area
602	064, 065	Arizona	702	271	Nevada
501	147	Arkansas	212	017, 018, 021	N.Y.C.
415	158	San Francisco		024, 074	
	167	Berkeley	513	185	
213	046, 182, 183, 184	L.A.	216	050	Akron
303	153	Colorado		082	Cleveland
203	010		503	131	Oregon
	020	Hartford	412	030	
202	032, 033	D.C.	215	043	
305	044	Miami		041, 042	Philadelphia
404	022, 063		814	208	
	025, 035	Atlanta	401	019	Rhode Island
312	097	Chicago	713	151	Houston area
	098	Suburbs	801	155, 383	Utah
504	046	New Orleans	206	163, 167	
301	011	Maryland	509	128	
617	007, 008	Massachusetts	414	088	
	001	Boston	608	201	
313	013, 096		307	137	Wyoming
	083	Detroit	604	493	British Columbia
612	126		613	473	Ontario
			416	476	Ontario

Certain destructive hooligans claim to already have the 1974 telephone credit card code.

Allegedly, the only change from last year's system is the code letter at the end of the credit card number. This year, supposedly, the letter depends on the FIFTH digit of the phone number.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
N X Z A G S Q F U J

special skinny paper shortage issue

The People's Republic of China has decided to challenge the Soviet Union head-on in competing for the American market.

The Chinese have announced that their next imported product into the US will be vodka.

The new booze, which is 80 proof, will be test marketed in New York later this year — and, already, the Chinese are using a Madison Avenue approach to peddle the drink. The vodka was originally scheduled to be sold under the brand name "Sunflower" — but after consulting U.S. marketing experts, the brand name has been changed to "Great Wall."

—Zodiac

The new Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (the DEA) has come up with a method to give its agents the power to search and seize private property without obtaining court warrants ahead of time.

The DEA, a super drug agency created six months ago by the Nixon administration, has quietly assigned a number of its field agents to the U.S. Customs Department. A special act of congress permits only customs personnel to open and search packages without warrants; the procedure is widely practiced at most border crossings and points of entry into the United States.

The DEA, however, is planning to interpret this search and seizure power on a much broader scale. According to an agency spokesman, DEA agents — using their new semi-official customs status — will be restricted in their searches only by what is known as "first opportunity."

This means that field agents throughout the U.S. will be permitted to search packages, warehouses, and even private residences within the U.S. if agents believe it is their "first opportunity" to seize contraband that might have been smuggled into the country.

The policy, as interpreted by the DEA, means that the agents, without warrants, could even forcibly enter a person's home and search for a stash of marijuana — if the agents believe the pot might have been smuggled from Mexico or another foreign country.

The DEA originally intended to ask congress for specific approval for this questionable power, but changed its mind and reassigned a number of agents instead to customs because of congressional reaction to Watergate. The agency says it hopes to get congressional approval at a later date. Which means that you have time to write your congressgeek and tell them not to vote for it at the same time you tell them to impeach Nixon.

—Zodiac

The Equal Rights Amendment — the proposed constitutional amendment which prohibits sex discrimination — is running into trouble. It has been nearly two years since the measure was approved by congress and then sent to the individual states for their endorsement, but it is still far from adoption.

Common Cause, one of the groups supporting the drive to adopt the amendment, admits that the measure will not qualify during 1974. According to Common Cause, a total of 30 states have ratified the amendment out of the 38 needed for adoption, but only four more states, at most, are expected to ratify the measure this year.

Backers of the amendment originally expected to bring about its adoption by the end of 1973. However, strong opposition to the measure developed, particularly in the south, and the final fate of the amendment is now very much in doubt.

To complicate matters, supporters of the amendment have suffered one setback: although 30 states have ratified it, one of them, Nebraska, has withdrawn its ratification. That withdrawal is now being challenged in court.

—Zodiac

Watergate conspirator James McCord has announced that he is filing a libel suit against Paul Krassner and Krassner's magazine, The Realist, charging that the magazine has maliciously and incorrectly linked McCord to a 1963 conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

McCord, in a letter to the Realist, has stated that the stories linking him and other members of the Watergate break-in team to the JFK killing are "libelous, untrue and malicious."

McCord specifically refers to an allegation that he was in Dallas 10 years ago, when Kennedy was killed. According to The Realist, in an article by assassination researcher Mae Brussell: "James McCord... was in Dallas the day Kennedy was shot, and (was) flown afterwards to the Caribbean."

The Realist had also reported that another member of the break-in team, Frank Sturgis, had been involved in a 1961 plot in Paris to kill President Kennedy while he was there visiting French President Charles DeGaulle. According to the magazine, that 1961 plot was never carried out as allegedly planned by Sturgis and other former CIA operatives.

McCord, in his legal notice to the Realist, specifically denies that any of his co-conspirators had been in either Dallas or France, as the magazine reported. However, he does not deny that he, himself, was in Dallas the day JFK was shot.

Krassner has drafted a lengthy reply to McCord's threatened legal action, stating that he is confident the magazine's information is accurate — and that he will defend his story in court if a suit is filed.

—Zodiac

VALUABLE COUPON!

Applications are now being taken for the SEED SUCKER LIST. Anyone sending in \$1.00 or more (preferably more — a lot more) will be sent a wonderful, full-color black and white CERTIFICATE OF DONATION, signed and authenticated by us.

This beautiful Certificate is worth as much as the paper it's printed on, and can become a wonderful and treasured family heirloom long after you're dead and buried. Don't delay — fill out the application below and receive your Certificate now!

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/Zip _____

Amount taken for _____

MAIL TO: Free Seed, 950 W. Wrightwood,
Chicago, Illinois, 60614. Hurry Now!
Don't Delay! Supply is unlimited.

Available at:

Meyer Sales
3939 N. Pulaski
Chicago

Light Boutique
6751 N. Sheridan
3302 W. Lawrence
Chicago

Tobacco Road
3115 N. Broadway
Chicago

earth
scents.

Rollit
Sweet

incense & oils

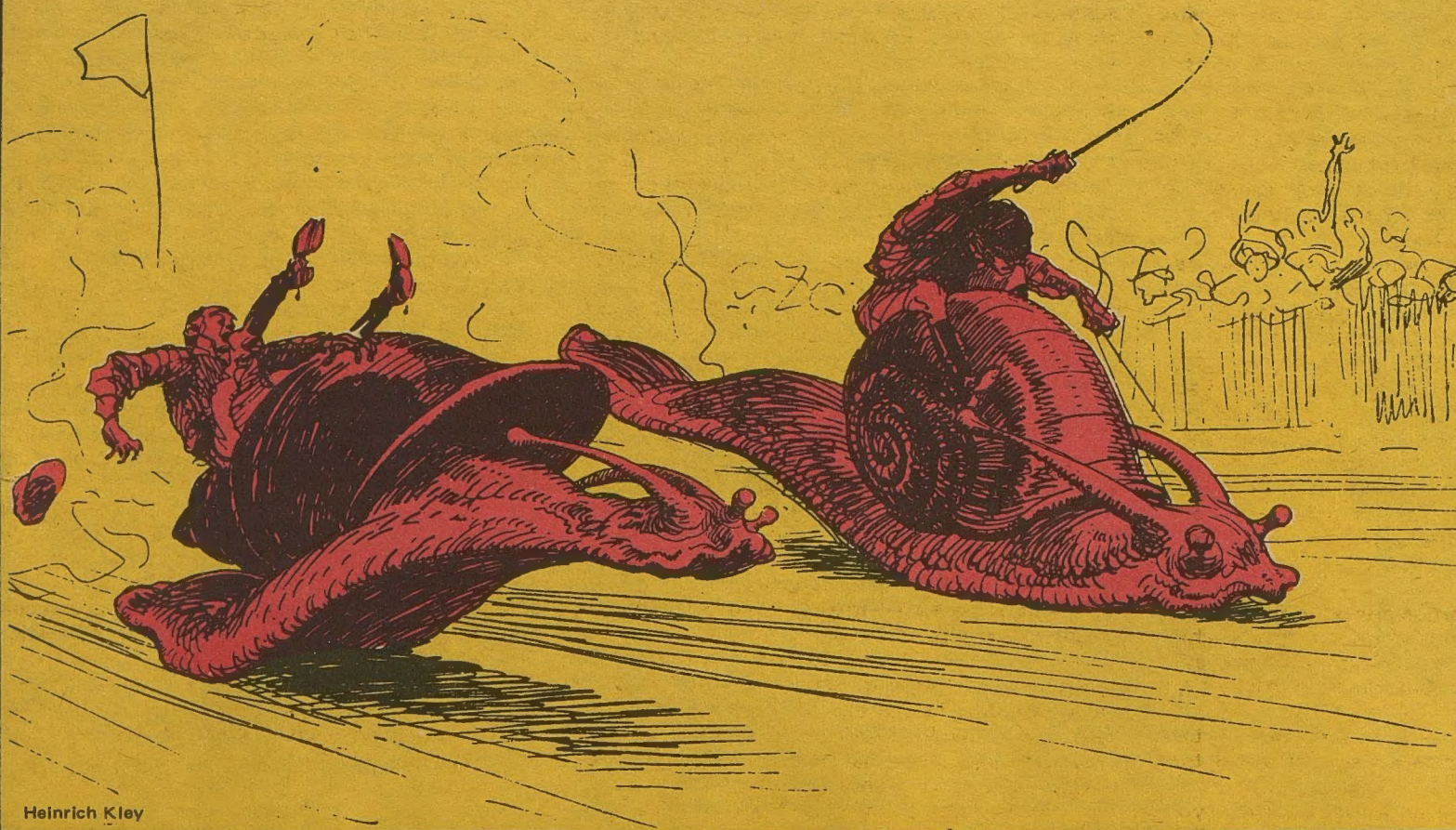
Available at:

Here It Is
2056 N. Sheridan
North Chicago

Buffalo Bob's
8144 1/2 N. Milwaukee
Niles

Everyone's Effort
General Store
709 Center
Des Plaines

CHEERING ON THE CTA



Heinrich Kley

It's hard to believe, but it looks like Transit Authority has given the people present — perhaps the first real present in twenty-five year history.

Being somewhat presumptuous about the referendum in mid-March, the CTA relaxed transfer policies, allowing riders any number of vehicle changes and direction changes within a period. Previously, riders could only use a transfer twice, for a continuous ride to a location near the point-of-origin.

Now a person could ride around the system in circles, transferring between dozens of buses and/or trains, so long as the rider boarded a vehicle within an hour of the time punched on the ticket.

This has a number of advantages concerned:

1) A person can now do some shopping, get a quick meal, pick something up (or drop it off) and then return home or to work without an additional fare. This raises a lot of money for the CTA, but it is a convenience to the rider.

2) The new plan allows a person to go somewhere on the way to or from work, without having to go somewhat out of the way. The advantages are the same as those listed above.

3) It raises money for the CTA, which can be used to pay for the increased costs of the system. The CTA has been selling more tickets, attracting a few more people; people who otherwise take a car or stay at home instead of using the additional fare.

4) The new plan, therefore, decreases the number of cars on the road and has the potential to remove many more cars off the road. This helps to reduce air pollution, particularly in the inner-city, and lessens the need for gas and oil. It also cuts back on the need for gas station lines, and cuts back on the need for parking lots. I wish I could report it ends racism, imperialism, but the CTA is only human. Banks (who gets \$15,000.00 a year for a couple of meetings) is only human.

There's only one trick. Sometimes a person can shapen clone at the train station or bus fare, but it's the wrong time on the transfer. C

Anyone who has walked into a supermarket lately knows the sinking feeling you get when you look at food prices. Since January, 1973, inflation has climbed to its highest point in 22 years. Why? Who is responsible?

ARE FARMERS DRIVING UP FOOD PRICES?

Many people believe that farmers are responsible for rising food prices. But the ordinary small farmer, far from being greedy, is having a difficult time simply surviving. More than half of all farms that existed at the end of World War II have gone out of business, leaving less than 3 million farms in the United States. Each week more than 2000 farms fail, many of which are bought up by big corporations.

It is the new breed of "farmers" — large corporations like DuPont, Boeing, Mobil, and Greyhound — who are making the largest profits from rising food prices. In the last agricultural census, less than 1% of all farms made more than 24% of all sales. This kind of concentrated control over food production often allows the large companies to get together and raise prices, without fear of serious competition. They can also more easily limit the amount of food being produced each year. The direct results of all this are higher prices for us and much greater profits for the corporate "farmers."

DO WE CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH FOOD PRICES?

Our government has been saying that the average person is buying so much food that prices can't help but go up. In fact, however, the government itself is a major cause of high food prices. Every year it pays farmers \$4 billion a year not to grow food. This makes food scarce and therefore more expensive.

This farm subsidy program began in the 1930's as a way of helping small farmers. By keeping food supply down and prices up, small farms could stay in business. The only way to keep supply down was to pay farmers not to grow.

Food subsidies now, however, work to put the small farmer out of business. Most of the subsidy goes to the large corporate farms who pushed small farmers off the land. As of 1970, the largest 5% of farms got more cash subsidies than the smallest 60%.

One of the ten biggest "farmers" receiving this subsidy is Tenneco Corporation, which is also one of the ten biggest defense contractors. Another large beneficiary is Senator James Eastland of Mississippi, the third ranking member of the Senate Agricultural Committee. Still another is W.R. Poage, who owns two farms in Texas and receives thousands of dollars in subsidies to keep his land unplowed. Poage just happens to be the head of the House Agricultural Com-

mittee.

Government restriction of production makes food scarce; food prices go up and so do profits for the big farmers — ITT, Boeing, etc. In 1972, farm profits were the highest in U.S. history.

THE GOVERNMENT KEEPS PRICES UP

In addition to paying farmers not to produce, the government also buys huge quantities of different foods at the wholesale level to keep demand high and prices up. The motive? To increase farm income.

With milk, for example, the government first decides on a price that insures profits for the milk industry, then it buys large amounts of wholesale milk at that price. This causes the market price of wholesale milk to rise until it equals the government's "support" price.

In March, 1971, the government raised the support price of milk — as a result, milk prices went up a penny a gallon and \$300 million in added profits went to the milk companies. The government had initially ruled that there wouldn't be an increase in the support price of milk for 1971. What changed their minds? (watch the dates).

March 12, 1971: Then Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin denies the dairy industry's request for an increase in milk support prices.

March 22, 1971: Dairy industry gives Republican party \$10,000.

March 23, 1971: Sixteen leaders of the dairy industry meet with Nixon and Hardin.

March 24, 1971: Dairy industry gives \$25,000 to Republican Party.

March 25, 1971: Secretary Hardin grants requested increase in government support price.

Throughout the rest of 1971 and 1972, the dairy industry gave \$400,000 to the Republican party.

MEAT PRICES

Higher meat prices may have made life harder for the average person, but the beef packing industry — the companies who slaughter the cattle and cut it down to carcasses for the local butcher — profited as never before. In 1972, as beef prices soared, the largest beef packers more than doubled their profits.

Iowa Beef Processors, the industry's biggest company, increased its net profit in the last three months of 1972 by 166% compared to a year earlier, Missouri Beef Packers profit was up 102% for the same period; Swift's profit was up 95%. (*Business Week*, 3/10/73)

Workers in the meat packing industry, however, do not profit from the higher prices. Even though

Iowa Beef, for example, is the largest, most profitable meat packer, the minimum pay is only \$3.15 an hour. In 1969 the hourly minimum was \$2.12. When the union went on strike for higher wages, the company dug trenches around the plant, surrounded it with armed guards and flew in scabs from Texas and Mexico (the plant was in Nebraska). One worker was shot twice in the stomach while on picket duty. Violent clashes with police and strikebreakers were frequent and many workers were arrested. It took the union seven months to win the \$3.15 an hour minimum. (Harvard Business School Case Study).

THE RUSSIAN WHEAT DEAL

Our government has tried to answer criticism about high food prices by blaming it on the Soviet Union. The government argues that the Russians drastically reduced the U.S. supply of wheat by buying so much, and thus causing wheat prices to rise. Wheat is used as livestock feed, so the high cost of wheat and other feed grains caused meat prices to soar. All because of the Russians.

True, the Russians bought 422 million bushels of wheat in 1972, but the government knew this in early July, well before the fall planting of winter wheat. For a long time Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz claimed they were not aware of the Russian sale until the fall, but recently the vice-president of Continental Grain testified before the Senate that he had told the government about the sale as early as July 3, 1972. (*Boston Globe* 7/21/73) Under the present system, the government regulates the amount of wheat planted every year. Our government could simply have increased the amount planted to compensate for the Soviet grain purchase.

Instead, the government did nothing. "The fact remains that the government failed to act last summer in the face of a huge surge in international demand for wheat and feed grains." (*Business Week* 3/3/73) The reason? *Business Week* claims, "Election year politics and the farm vote were at least an implicit factor." High wheat prices mean happy farmers, in this case corporations that own farms. Two of these corporations showed their gratitude to the government within months after the completion of the sale: Clarence D. Palmby, the Assistant Secretary for the International Affairs, resigned to take a job with Continental Grain. Clifford Pulvermacher, Agriculture's Director of Exports, left to handle the legal work for the Bunge Corporation. Both of these companies profited enormously from the Russian wheat deal.

Even after failing to increase the amount of grain planted last year, the government could have done a number of other things in the fall and early

winter of 1973.

—It could have bought more bushels of wheat. This would have helped the world's poor.

—It could have paid special prices to the farmers who were in the line.

Final

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that person had to stamp each and every transfer at
the time the rider purchased it; the buses and trains
would fall years behind schedule. Therefore, they
tend to punch several tickets at a time, and wait for
the customers to flock to the turnstiles.

Now there are good tricks and there are bad
tricks. Sometimes the transfer could be punched up
to a half-hour ahead of time, allowing the rider more
time to putz around. That's a good trick.

But sometimes the transfer is punched behind
time, cutting the rider's transfer period. One rider
interviewed wasn't allowed to board a bus because
the rapid transit agent cheated her out of forty-five
minutes of travelling time.

In fact, 12.5% of the riders interviewed at the
Fullerton "L" stop complained of being cheated out
of their full transfer travelling time. In contrast, only
8% of the riders interviewed at the Loyola "L" station
complained of similar treatment; however, an overall
10.25% is still pretty bad. Riders should take a good
look at the time punched on their transfers before
they leave the agent or the driver.

(One note: These interviews took place ten
days after the new system went into effect. Perhaps
this situation will improve with time. Riders should
still cop a good look at their tickets.)

To celebrate, the CTA printed up new four
color transfers — they are saving money on the trans-
fers, as they no longer have to print 102 different
names on the tickets, nor do they need those obnox-
ious time machines on the "L" platforms.

The transfers now have the rules printed in
Spanish as well as English. The City of Chicago should
follow the CTA's lead in recognizing the existence of
a large number of Spanish-speaking citizens in this
city.

Of course, the portion printed in English can't
be read, as it is squarely behind the time-punching
portion of the ticket. Obviously, the CTA has yet to
realize those holes go through both sides of the
transfer.

Those bilingual rules are interesting, for they
tell people how to beat the system. Of course, they
also tell people it is illegal.

The transfers more or less say if you give your

transfer away for free to someone going somewhere
else when you get off your last bus or train — riding
on the rest of your hour — they'll bust your ass and
fine you \$200.00.

You see, the person who receives your transfer
won't have to pay for that bus, unless that second
person needs a transfer. If enough people do it, the
CTA will lose money and eventually go out of business
or something.

The CTA's a little paranoid. People in Chicago
are hardly likely to start risking their \$200 — even on
a long shot — to aid their fellow human, or even to
show a little neighborly concern. Not a chance. And
it's not because Chicagoans are law-abiding citizens,
either.

The CTA could save us all a lot of hassle — and
money, too — if they were to sell monthly CTA passes,
color coded each month so people would merely
have to flash their passes to get on the bus or train.
Far fewer transfers, less waiting time getting on the
bus, faster buses, fewer money collection problems,
less exact fare bullshit....

Such a monthly pass would provide the rider
with unlimited rides during that period. If it were sold
for \$20.00 or so, the riders would save a bit of money
and a lot of hassle; the CTA would attract more riders
and the above-mentioned problems would go even
further down.

These passes could be purchased by mail or at
the places where most tokens are sold — banks, cur-
rency exchanges and the like.

It would be nice if the CTA gave us all another
present — lower fares. When I last wrote of transit
fares four years ago (Seed, Vol. 4, number 10 — mid-
December, 1969), I said Chicago had one of the most
expensive transit systems in the country.

This is no longer true. A few other cities have
caught up, I'm afraid.

Even if the RTA goes through, it is doubtful we
would receive a fare cut. We have two new subways
on the drawing boards and we genuinely need them
both. The CTA isn't likely to cut back revenue with
expensive fuckers like that coming up. Tough break,
I suppose, but carfare is once again cheaper than bread.

Raising fares, on the other hand, isn't too likely

either, as long as the RTA goes through in the March
election. Each time the CTA raises fares, they lose
riders. Usually, they wind up losing money on the
deal, so they have to boost fares again in order to
meet expenses. They're screwed either-way.

All of this brings us to the RTA question. RTA
stands for Regional Transit Authority, and covers
Chicago, Cook county and all the surrounding counties.

The RTA would have the power to sell bonds
and raise money for the entire system — including the
CTA — and coordinate schedules for all the transport-
ation systems in the area.

When people think about the RTA they tend to
think of those rich executives playing bridge on the
Chicago-North Western. I suppose they already play
a whole different game of monopoly....

Whereas the RTA would benefit those shmucks,
it does something else. There are a lot more jobs
open in the suburbs, as new factories get built or re-
located out in the sticks. "Cheap" labor — they call
it something else, I suppose, but they're not referring
to the suit-and-tie folks — lives in the city. New fact-
ories and businesses are out in the sticks so rich exec-
utives can cut down their travel time and not have to
worry about high crime districts.

The RTA would help provide a means for peo-
ple to get out to those jobs. If enough folks go out
there, some of them will move out there, tampering
with high-brow residency restrictions and, of course,
bringing the high crime people types out to the para-
noid suburbs where they belong. Sweat on that, Mr.
and Mrs. Suburbanite.

If more factories move out of Chicago, the res-
idents of our fair city might actually be able to see
the sun on the horizon. Sort of equal pollution for all.

The RTA might actually be able to lower fares
between the city and the suburbs — an important con-
cept, if inner-city workers are to go out to the sticks
to win their bacon.

It isn't exactly the answer to our problems —
after all, the way things are going, there might not be
any jobs anywhere — but it is certainly far better than
we've got.

—Mike Gold

er of 1972 to stem the rise in feed grain prices.
It could have dumped some of the millions of
bushels of grain it holds in storage onto the market.
This would have increased supply and kept prices
down.

It could have demanded immediate payment of
special loans it has made to soybean and feed grain
farmers. This would have forced farmers to pay
the loans by selling their crops instead of hoarding
them in hopes that prices would go still higher.

Finally, in January, 1973, as the public became
easily angry over high prices, the government
some of its surplus wheat, called in its loans and
ceased wheat planting for the next crop. But, as
ness Week admitted, it was "too little, too late",
cially in the face of bad weather conditions which
ruined the harvest and led to further tightening of
world's supply of food.

CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED

As a result of the government's failure to con-
trol grain prices, consumers across the country were
treated this year to the spectacle of chicken farmers
slaughtering chicks at the same time that chicken prices
were soaring. The chicken farmers claimed that the
high feed grain prices made it unprofitable to keep
chickens alive. Again, instead of preventing these
economic measures and acting in the interest of the
consumer, the Agriculture Department actually sug-
gested that chicken farmers reduce their flocks. At
the same time the government has allowed the higher
prices that it is responsible for to be passed on to the
consumer. Between January and April of this year
retail chicken prices climbed 40%. And now with
the introduction of Phase 4, all food prices are once
again rising with no end in sight.

Since the Watergate scandals broke, with their
 revelations about huge corporate donations for special
 favors from men at the highest levels of the U.S. gov-
 ernment, we have all become more aware of the con-
 cept that major corporations have over politics and
 government. The role of these corporations in enlist-
 ing government aid to increase prices and profits
 would make it perfectly clear that until their power
 is ended, the average person, the average consumer,
 will continue to have to pay the price.

—Political Education Project

h of this article was based on information cited in "Why
We Spend So Much?" by Steve Babson and Nancy Brigham.
copies of this article in its original leaflet form can be
ordered from the Political Education Project, 65A Winthrop
St, Cambridge, Mass, 02138.

THE PRICE OF FOOD



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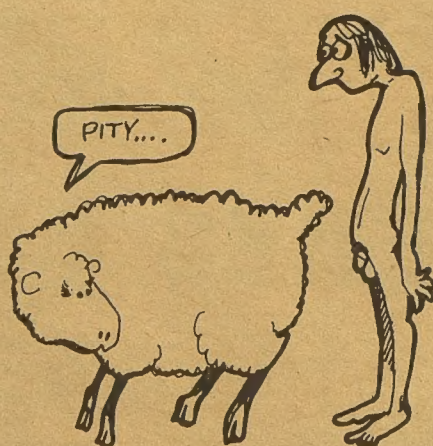
Babaji's Kriya Yoga Classes by Yogi S.A.A. Ramaiah, direct disciple of the great, deathless master, Sathguru Kriya Babaji Nagaraj of the Himalayas are held every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. Classes begin with scientific instruction in asanas followed by pranayam, meditation, inspired lectures, lucid questions and answers, and Indian chorus bhajans at Chicago Babaji Yoga Sangam, 1118 W. Armitage, 2nd floor rear apartment, tel 312-549-0031.

STRIKE! Famous Eisenstein film, also "Felix the Cat", political cartoon (huh?), Sat Feb 9, 8pm and Sunday Feb 10, 4:30pm. New World Resource Center, 2546 N Halsted.

Spiritual Perfection through contemplation of impure thoughts and actions. Dictionary readings and giggling sessions every Wed and Thur in the Church of Your Choice, back pew.

Basic Astrology classes beginning on Saturday March 9th, from 2-4; by experienced and qualified Astrologer. Includes casting of horoscope chart. All ages. 6 week course for \$20.00. Write or call Rose Lesniak, 6944 W. George St, Chicago, 745-8988, keep trying.

A multitude variety of theater courses are offered by the Theater Center of Columbia College, Jan 28 thru Feb 15, and Feb 18 thru June 8th. Call them at 549-9047.



WANTED: Used Fender amp, Twin or Super Reverb, must be playable and not scratched up. Call 973-0641

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Are you pregnant and alone? Are you raising a child or children by yourself? Call Mothers Alone, Inc, 662-8682 (days and evenings), 548-6106 (after 6pm).

All classifieds are free, though contributions are encouraged. Ads will be accepted by MAIL ONLY. Send to Seed, 950 W. Wrightwood, Chicago Ill 60614. We don't run sex solicitation ads, not because we hate sex (far from it), but because we don't believe that it should be reduced to the same level as buying a used guitar.

WANTED

New or old neon signs — any kind, any shape even if they don't work. Do you know of one or have one? Call Charlotte, 465-9152.

NEED GIGS.

Young artist seeking gigs (such as local group posters, etc) Need money but will do free illustrations for people causes. Have a little experience in commercial shit such as radio ads, cartooning, etc. Write: Ron Torres, 3730 176th St, Hammond, Ind, 46323.

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Headshops wanting to sell handcut wooden pipes are invited to send their letterhead for a free sample pipe to: Pritchard Pipes Ltd., 303 E. Allegheny, Philadelphia, Pa, 19134.

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Grand Prix candles (9" tall); Zodiac Sex positions candles. \$4.50 plus 50 cents postage on 12. From BC71, 1230 Bryn Mawr, Chicago, Ill 60660.

MESSAGES:

Hey Seed! Quit playin them games it's no. 13 How Dull. I Win ha ha. Send me my prize 1 kilo please. I dare you to print this in your next issue. The Bug System R.P.M. Ill.

Dermot: We love you and want to know if you are alive and well Kevin, Asta & family.

Join forces with Kooky Oddball's Liberation! Please write: Tedd, 669 Wolfe, Valparaiso, Indiana, 46383 and Patti, 1454 W. Olive, Chicago Ill 60660.

Get off my back! Quit bugging me! If you don't leave me alone I'll hold my breath and Die and then where will you be! You'll be sorry. Dick Nixon.

Ph'nglui mglw'nath Cthulhu R'lyeh wgan'nagl fhtagn. Free records — legit, 864-2504, Rob.

Illustrations. Jamie 477-3408.

25-year old psychology graduate student wants pen-pal for freindship and to get to know Chicago. Tony Barnston, PO Box 2231, Station A, Champaign, Ill, 61820

As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Matt. 24:36-09. Call 935-2120, 935-2120, 935-2120.

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Top of the month deadline dash, February edition:

Lotsa changes in the radio business. WGLD, a station which, for about three months in 1969, was the best thing Chicago radio had ever heard (they then started to fire anyone who had the least bit of talent), finally gave up the ghost last month as they changed their format to computer-programmed black pop music. Their call letters are now WBMX.

Oddly enough, WBMX is doing a creditable job of providing an alternative of sorts to the AM black stations. I've heard Miles Davis and Billie Holliday on BMX, as well as other artists too non-commercial for the AM stations and too black for the lily-white FM rockers.

Classical Rock, a decent enough show which often captures the spirit of early "underground" rock radio, has added two hours to their Monday through Friday schedule, starting at 8pm nowadays.

Radio Warp, on WNIB (97FM) Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at midnight, has added Thursdays to their schedule. These folks have been getting better and better as they've reached a point of independence from the Alternatives, Inc. program. The Transition jazz show, which was heard on WNIB Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, has unfortunately disappeared.

Triad radio has been sliding downhill for some time; these days their show is merely a shadow of their former selves. All in all though, if you find something in their Triad Guide that grabs you, check it out.

Those In Concert broadcasts on WDAI and WLS-TV have taken a drastic turn for the worse, as Dick Clark Productions have taken over the program. They added an announcer, Robert W. Morgan, formerly of WIND radio, and this totally detracts from the "Concert" feeling.

The National Lampoon Radio Hour, on WSDM Sundays at 9pm, is usually a very funny show. A couple weeks ago they had a bit where President Nixon plays Bebe Rebozo in a game of Monopoly. Whenever Bebe got himself in a position of wiping Nixon, the President's team of lawyers re-interpreted the rules.

The CBS Mystery Theater, every night at 10:30 on WBBM-AM (the news station), also deserves note. Whereas their original broadcasts sound like they were written in the 1930's, their attempts at bringing back radio drama are noteworthy and people who have never listened to this medium before are strongly encouraged to check it out.

The record vinyl shortage "we" talked about a couple months back has really hit big. Most labels have raised their list prices on new releases to \$6.98—Chicago area stores will probably be selling them for around \$4.00. About seven years back, the list price was \$3.98.

Rumor has it many big labels will not sign any new artists, will not release new records by loser and marginal groups and will not take any chances in the way of experimental or different material from their established artists. This means we can expect 1974 to be a more musically bland year than 1973.

Bob Dylan's new record, Planet Waves, on Asylum records, is a turkey. His voice is in great shape, but the songs themselves are nowhere. The Band, lurking musically in the background, tends to interfere with Dylan—they are not used to being studio backup musicians, and they do not work well for Dylan. Dylan, I'm afraid, would work out better as a background vocalist for The Band.

Dylan's other new album, Dylan, was Columbia Records sour grapes record, released only to spite Dylan's move to a new label. It consists of outtakes from Self Portrait, Dylan's self-indulgent attempt to record other people's songs. Bob Dylan doesn't like Dylan; there is no reason why anyone else should either.

I expect better things from the live lp coming out of the recent tour.

Grace Slick's new album, Manhole (on Grunt) is the best thing anyone from the Jefferson Airplane empire has done since Sunfighter. Grace is on her own here, with her magnificent vocals swirling out of the record, taking the listener back to the time when the acid was pure and the economy was strong. The background instrumentalization is tastefully produced, giving strength to the subtleties of Slick's vocals.

The record has a Latin feel to it, and whereas I'm not quite sure why Slick occasionally slides into Spanish vocals, I can't really say I care. Like all Airplane company records, Manhole takes several listenings to fully appreciate, but it is easily worth it.

—Mike Gold